

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney of record Steve Ashburn on September 03, 2009.

3. Claims 11-13 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-10** are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1, is allowed in view of Applicant's arguments on the Appeal Brief filed on July 15, 2009.

Claim 1, is allowed because the closest prior art, Sato (US 2002/0056079), and in view of Ramaswamy (US 6,571,112), fail to anticipate or render obvious as stated in

the Applicant's Remarks on the Appeal Brief from pages 7-9, in combination with all other limitations in the claims as defined by applicant.

Dependent Claims 2-10 are allowable for the same reason as set forth above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8131. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles N. Appiah can be reached on 571-272-7904. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/MICHAEL T VU/
Examiner, Art Unit 2617

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